

Acknowledgements

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APLOTA PALPELLA (HAWORTH) (LEP.: OECOPHORIDAE) IN DEVON—On 1st July 1987 I found four larvae of *Aplota palpella* amongst *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum* on two beech trees at Ashclyst Forest, Devon (V.C. 3). Nothing emerged from one, one produced a parasite which so far can only be determined as belonging to the genus *Chelonus* and the other two produced moths on 25th and 29th July. This is the first time that the species has been recorded from Devon.

The larvae fed in strong silken tubes hidden amongst the moss. Their presence was revealed by fine sawdust like frass on the surface of the moss. Although this grew over much of the trunk, often luxuriantly, the larvae occurred only where the moss was sparse and about five to six feet from the ground. Three of the larvae fed in an area of scar tissue.

The moss grew on almost all of the neighbouring trees, most of which were oak, but I could not find larvae on these. As it was more difficult searching for tubes on their rough furrowed bark I may have overlooked them. However the two trees with larvae were at the edge of the forest and so received more light (they were not in direct sunlight) and this might be significant.

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